

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, Abstract and claims 1, 2 and 6-9 are amended and claim 5 is cancelled. Support for the amended features can be found in Applicants' Figs. 8-12E and page 10, line 24 - page 11, line 10, for example.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on May 1, 2006. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4 and 9-11.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Platt, U.S. Patent No. 2,900,941. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Platt fails to disclose a sewing machine with a moving speed limiting unit that includes a moving member capable of moving substantially together with the thread cassette in a course of movement of the thread cassette to a predetermined position in the cassette mount, a rotating member rotated by movement of the moving member, and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the rotating member, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 8.

Platt discloses a spool holder with a coil spring 32 that snugly fits over a spool pin 31 in order to offer resistance to the removal of a thread spool (col. 2, lines 43-48). Platt fails to illustrate the thread spool or disclose any structure related to the thread spool other than the thread spool being structured to fit over the coil spring 32 and spool pin 31. Platt thus fails to provide any disclosure with regard to a moving member, a rotating member and a rotational resistance applying unit that applies rotational resistance to the rotating member, as recited in claims 1 and 8.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over JP 2002-191884 (JP'884). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP'884 cannot be applied in a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(e) because JP'884 is not a U.S. application published either as a U.S. publication or U.S. patent. However, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) can be applied.

JP'844 fails to disclose a sewing machine with a moving speed limiting unit that includes a moving member capable of moving substantially together with the thread cassette in a course of movement of the thread cassette to a predetermined position in the cassette mount, a rotating member rotated by movement of the moving member, and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the rotating member, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 8.

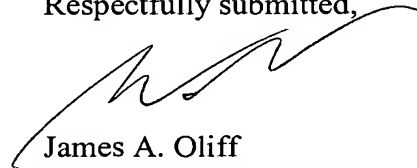
JP'844 discloses a thread cassette 2 that is placed in a cassette mount 3 of a sewing machine 1. When the thread cassette 2 is placed in the cassette mount 3, a slit 101 of the thread cassette 2 passes over a balance 25 and a guard section 26 and the thread cassette 2 is placed between guide slots 110, 111. JP'844 also discloses a return coil spring 126 (Fig. 10) that is extended when the thread cassette 2 is moved. JP'844 fails to provide any disclosure with regard to the thread cassette 2 as including any structure that limits the speed in which the thread cassette 2 is placed in the cassette mount 3. Accordingly, JP'844 fails to provide any disclosure with regard to a moving member, a rotating member and a rotational resistance applying unit that applies rotational resistance to the rotating member, as recited in claims 1 and 8.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 17, 2006

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